



Regional Service Council Minutes

Region # 16

Meeting Date: April 26, 2007
Meeting Location: Haub Steak House, Haubstadt, Indiana

Council Members Present: Regional Manager Virginia Combs
Larry Marchino
Susan Blackburn
Steve Cunningham
David Straw
Julie Weeks
Judge Timothy Crowley

Council Members Absent: Judge David Kelly
Judge Brett Niemeier
Chris Hoehn
Suzanne Draper

Others In Attendance: Lark Buckman
Judith Harper
Dr. John Ireland (Ireland & Luzio)
Cynthia Smith (Youth Service Bureau)
Jara Dillingham (Villages)
Wendy Griffin-Allen (DOULOS)
Mike Jones (DOULOS)
Lynne Rump (Children & Family Services)
Judge Jeffrey Meade

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Called to Order at: 5:15 p.m. (6:15 p.m. Indianapolis time) by Regional Manager Virginia Combs.

1. Mrs. Combs welcomed John Kaiser, Regional Manager from Region 18, who is here to give a presentation on the logistics of bringing Practice Reform to his region. Gini also welcomed Judge Jeffrey Meade from Gibson County who will be joining the Regional Service Council. Gini asked everyone to introduce

themselves. The agenda for today's meeting and the minutes of the January 25th meeting had been emailed to all Council members prior to the meeting. On a motion by Steve Cunningham, seconded by Susan Blackburn, the minutes of the January 25, 2007 meeting were unanimously approved as distributed.

2. Practice Reform Update – John Kaiser, Regional Manager of Region 18, gave a presentation concerning the logistics of bringing Practice Reform to Region 18. His region was one of two regions picked for the pilot project since it was the right size region, covers a compact area, and has good airline and highway transportation. Staff members of the pilot regions went to Utah to observe their practice reform program in action as Indiana's program is modeled on theirs with slight differences. They attended child and family team meetings, looked at the training program, the QSR process, and talked with their case managers.

Key to these practice reform efforts is to have good Peer Coaches who train the Family Case Managers for the family team meetings. Family preparation is the most important part of the process. The Peer Coach has to conduct three team meetings on their own after training, and then they are considered to be a facilitator and are assigned a number of Family Case Managers to train. Peer Coaches receive no salary increase or payments like the mentors receive, but their caseloads are reduced.

The Family Case Manager will work with the family to solve their problems using new terminology, but basic social work skills learned years ago. Providers can be included in the child and family team meetings and they are also prepared prior to the meetings by the FCM. One of the challenges is scheduling evening family meetings, especially during the school year, and determining how FCM's will handle flex hours. These meetings last about 90 minutes and telephone conference calls can work in some instances.

Hopefully in a year, after initiation of practice reform, Practice Indicators will show a drop in the amount of time children are placed out of the home. Region 18 found that even with caseload numbers down, Family Case Managers are still busy, but they feel they are doing a better job. With Practice Reform, there will be an increase in visitations and supervised visitations because Family Case Managers have more time to arrange them.

3. Dr. John Ireland gave an update on the Community Partners for Child Safety program. He distributed three handouts: the Monthly Case Summary for March 2007, the Closed Case Summary for January– March 2007, and a budget sheet for the program. Recommendations on the last page of the budget report include:

adopt a more focused attitude on goals, need to make referrals, and develop a waiting list for services.

Ad Hoc Committee recommendations – Judy Harper stated that the Directors have met and recommended to the Regional Service Council that the county Directors make up the Community Partners Advisory Committee. Cynthia Smith also volunteered to be a member of this committee. This committee would approve or disapprove allocation of hard service funds over the \$300 maximum per family. Steve Cunningham made a motion on this issue and it was seconded by Larry Marchino. All council members present approved the motion.

4. Length of Service for Voting Council Members – Susan Blackburn proposed that the Regional Service Council select new voting council members to serve two-year terms to begin January 2008, non-rotating, and to serve through the year 2009. Prior to January, a nominating committee will contact members to determine who is interested in being a voting member of the council. Current voting members could be reelected. There must be three Judges and three Directors in the voting membership group. The Council discussed the need to get more Judges involved in the Council. This motion was seconded by Larry Marchino. The motion passed as proposed.
5. Child Welfare Services Funding Update – Gini Combs distributed two handouts: a letter to Celia Leaird, Deputy Director of Programs and Services, requesting additional funding and a response letter from Celia regarding our Child Welfare Services Fund approved allotment of \$100,000. Because of the limited amount of funding available, Central Office had capped the amount that a region could receive at \$100,000.
6. Miscellaneous - None

Next Meeting Date, Location and Time: June 28, 2007 at 5:00 p.m. at Haub Steak House, Haubstadt, Indiana.

Meeting Adjourned at: 7:25 p.m. (8:25 p.m. Indianapolis time).